

Perfin Values and all that

Roy Everett (#2635)

The truest part is that a perfin is worth what the buyer expects to pay for it. But this has another aspect too, "costs must offer the seller sufficient to make the offer available." Both points have to be made -- it is no good for a collector to say, "I will only pay five cents a perfin" if he then finds that all dealers reply, "I will not offer you any at that price."

Dealers consider perfins a waste of time, this has been so for years and you know the result -- perfins heaved into the rubbish bin, hence lost forever to collectors.

Pah! to "five cents for British and up to twenty cents for a more desirable countries -- try buying an S&S on a 1d lilac for less than £25.00, try getting a true Crown/B.T for less than £10.00. Try getting a perforation interrupted Dutch perfin for under U.S. \$10.00. You cannot readily sweep perfin values into handy price ranges, it does not work. Witness actual Perfin Society auction realizations.

<u>Perfins</u>	<u>Realized</u>	<u>Price Each</u>
1xQV	£ 1.60	£1.60
49xQV	2.70	.055
100xQV	47.00	.47
85xQV	107.00	1.25

Where is the uniformity in that? And what of the following?

<u>Perfins</u>	<u>Realized</u>	<u>Price Each</u>
66xHungary	£ 6.00	£0.09
20xHolland	4.60	0.23
28xGermany	6.50	0.07
149xU.S.	11.00	0.07
48xFrance	4.20	0.09

At today's rates 20¢ is about 10p.

Also -- on paper perfin per "pound weight" and off paper "per weight" -- what are these? Umpteen duplications of principally common types which have little chance of being traded. It is basically kiloware as with normal stamp collectors and that is quantity, not quality.

You would probably do a lot better with an unpicked lot of Kings and QV on paper. Such contain perfins, overprints, and normals are always resalable as so are the overprints if you do not collect them. If you get good at buying/selling

them, the perfins cost you nothing and you yield a profit to do the same again.

On "rarity", it is nice to specify that an "A" rate is worth \$5.00 to \$15.00. Making a perfin is not difficult, any semi-competent printer can do it, the Canadians found this out with their OHMS "rarities" a few years ago. Gibbons used to list Crown/B.T. perfins in their catalogue for stamps, hence the authenticity. The span of usage is a greater scarcity to the perfin -- but this does not state that point clearly to forgers.